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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/646,753 | 08/25/2003 | Hirokazu Kameyama | Q77095 | 1291 |
| 23373 | 7590 | 03/31/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| SUGHRUE MION, PLLC | | | MOTTSINGER, SEAN T | |
| 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| SUITE 800 | | | 2624 | |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20037 | | | MAIL DATE | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/646,753 | Applicant(s) KAMEYAMA ET AL. |
| | Examiner SEAN MOTSINGER | Art Unit 2624 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 86,89,92 and 98-101 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 86,89,92 and 98-101 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

Response to Applicants Arguments/Amendments

Applicants arguments/amendments filed on 12/3/2008 have been entered and made or record.

Applicants Arguments with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph regarding claim 98 have been fully considered but are not persuasive. Even if the language describing the references has a slight difference structural elements are repeated as if they were new elements which creates confusion because it is unclear if repeated elements are the same or different to those of claim 86.

Applicants Arguments with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph regarding the remaining claims have been fully considered and applicants amendments have over come the rejections.

Regarding the rejections Under 35 U.S.C. first paragraph applicants arguments/amendments have been fully considered but are not persuasive. There does not appear to be "a reference level" disclosed in the specification.

Applicants arguments with respect to the Prior art have been fully considered and applicants arguments are persuasive.

Specification

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The amendment filed 9/20/2007 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: "whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity" is new matter. Also, "whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity" is new matter. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 86, 89, 92 and 98-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The element "whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity" is new matter. Also, "whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity" is new matter. More specifically nothing in the specification describes a "reference

level." *The examiner suggests the language "whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to the level of the similarity"*

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 98 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 98 restates the similarity computation means and the synthesis means with only one word being different (and vs. or) this is improper because the similarity computation means and the synthesis means are stated twice it is unclear if further limitations have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 87, 89, 92 and 98-101 would be allowable if the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 were overcome. The prior art of record does not include the step of "said areas are grouped into a plurality of subject areas based on said motion vector of each area of said plurality of areas; said similarity is computed for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and said processed frame is acquired by obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity , then weighting said corresponding areas of said

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at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas."

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.

See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEAN MOTSINGER whose telephone number is (571)270-1237. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571)272-7453. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bhavesh M Mehta/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624

Motsinger
3/25/2009